

Grand Prize Goes to Bering Strait Project

by Rachel Douglas

Oct. 14—Just one year after Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's visit to Beijing boosted Sino-Russian economic cooperation to a new strategic level, the Grand Prize for innovation at the Shanghai World Expo-2010 has gone to the premiere intercontinental megaproject, the Bering Strait Tunnel crossing. Results of an innovation projects competition were announced today at the Fourth Civilizational Forum event, held during the Expo.

Receiving the award for the Bering Strait "intercontinental multimodal transport tunnel" design was Dr. Victor Razbegin, deputy chairman of the SOPS, Russia's Council for the Study of Productive Forces, a joint institution of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Ministry of Economic Development. SOPS is the successor organization of Academician Vladimir Vernadsky's Commission for Natural Productive Forces (KEPS), and was headed by Academician Alexander Granberg until his death in August of this year. In 2007, the SOPS co-sponsored an international conference on the Bering Strait megaproject, for which Lyndon LaRouche's invited contribution was titled, "The World's Political Map Changes: Mendeleyev Would Have Agreed." The proceedings of that event are available in *Forum International* magazine (<http://tiny.cc/h816b>).

Dr. Razbegin contributed a presentation to the September 2007 conference of the Schiller Institute, held in Kiedrich, Germany (<http://tiny.cc/amx46>).

Most recently, the strategic implications of the Bering Strait project were presented by American engineer Hal Cooper and Russian geologist Dr. Sergei Cherkasov of the Russian Academy of Sciences Vernadsky State Geological Museum, at the Sept. 25 conference of the Schiller Institute in Berlin. The proceedings are featured in EIR Online of Oct. 15, 2010.

The Shanghai award for the Bering Strait was reported by the RIA Novosti today in a wire which went out in several languages.

Novosti quoted Aslanbek Aslakhanov, a member of Russia's Federation Council and former adviser to Vladimir Putin as Russian President, who recently promoted the Bering Strait project in an interview on the Russia Today web TV channel. In Shanghai, Aslakhanov said: "Transport connection between Eurasia and the Americas through the Bering Strait, with the simultaneous economic development of huge northern terri-

tories in Russia, the United States, and Canada, is a unique opportunity to fundamentally strengthen transcontinental and inter-civilization integration."

The Novosti report noted the inclusion of a 6,000-km (3,700-mile) railroad and pipelines, linking Russia's Chukotka Peninsula with Alaska. It mentioned that the project has been under discussion since the 19th Century.

Novosti reported: "More than 100 projects participated in the innovation projects competition at the World Expo, which was held in five categories: systems

innovations, new materials and nanotechnologies, energy and environmental efficiency improvement, social and educational innovations, and regional border-area partnership projects. The competition was organized by the Pitirim Sorokin/Nikolai Kondratieff International Institute, the International Strategic Innovation and Technology Alliance, the Republican Scientific Consultative Research and Expertise Center (a scientific research institute with federal government agency status), and Kazakstan's scientific and technology holding company Parasat.

According to Novosti, the World Exhibition in Shanghai, with participation from over 200 countries, regions, and international organizations, has been visited by some 63 million people.

The Shanghai prize is a welcome contrast with this week's silly rush of publicity in Russia for the visit of Arnold Schwarzenegger, the governor of bankrupt California. Schwarzenegger consorted with Kremlin staffers and allies, such as British system aficionado and privatization architect Anatoli Chubais, who equate "innovation" with social networking and video games, and think those are magnets for foreign investment dollars to pour into Russia.



Dr. Victor Razbegin